

Global Information Networks

Ministerial Conference, Bonn
6-8 July 1997

On 8 October 1996, the Council of Ministers recognised the need for further analysis of the issues underlying the development of information society policy internationally, in order to reach a common understanding on global information networks. The Council of Ministers of the European Union stressed the need for coordination between initiatives relating to the subjects, both in the Union framework and in other international fora.

In addition, the Council welcomed the German proposal to host an international conference addressing these issues. The conference, prepared in close cooperation with the European Commission and the Member States, took place in Bonn on 6-8 July 1997.

Further information on the:

- participation and results;
- background documents;
- theme paper and
- draft conference programme

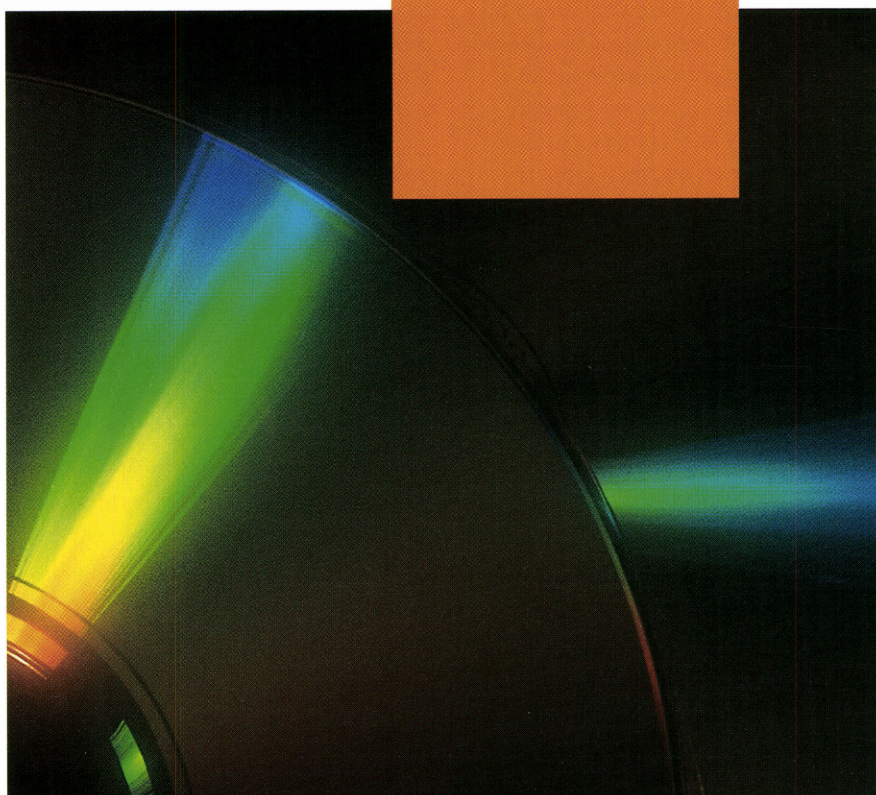
can be obtained from I*M-Europe via the following URL:

<http://www.echo.lu/bonn/conference.html>

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MIDAS-NET – a Golden Opportunity



<http://www.echo.lu/>

European Action for Multimedia Content

To increase awareness and use of the emerging multimedia information services and applications in Europe, the Commission has established a Multimedia Information Demonstration and Support Network (MIDAS-NET) within the framework of the INFO2000 programme. This network of proactive advisory centres is aimed at stimulating interest, demonstrating new products in the multimedia market, and assisting information users to exploit the poten-

tial of multimedia content. Their activities are targeted at user groups in business, industry and trade, in particular small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as citizens through libraries.

The first few months of operation of the network of MIDAS-NET nodes have been extremely successful. This can be seen by 3000 people attending 16 kick-off events throughout the EEA. Reports of these events were published in national newspapers or in radio and TV interviews. Through the combined

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actions of the Press contacts and the MIDAS-NET nodes, 300 Press articles have been detected on DG XIII/E activities as a whole since the start of the year. Many of these meetings attracted political participation at ministerial level, showing the interest of national authorities and policy making bodies to establish a useful collaboration between action at European and national level.

The network role is being enhanced by the active collaboration already initiated with other European networks, e.g. MIDAS-NET will be invited to participate, with Euro Info Centres, (co-ordinated by DG XXIII), in the European Information Society Awareness Week next October. Additionally, MIDAS-NET have been asked to present the activities of the network to the European Patent Office, to participate in the network meeting of the Business and Innovation Centres (co-ordinated by DG XVI), and to discuss collaboration with EUROGI (European Umbrella Organisation for Geographical Information). This collaboration engenders synergy and minimises duplication of services throughout the EEA.

In the workplans submitted by the 23 co-ordinators, almost 1000 events have been planned for 1997 in the 17 countries, with the targeted audiences of SMEs and citizens offered a vast array of courses, workshops, seminars, etc. tailored to their needs. The number will rise during the year as more events are planned in response to specific information requirements. User groups in business industry and trade are also being formed to demonstrate the potential of multimedia, and to spread best practice about the new multimedia technologies.

The information needs of SMEs and citizens are being satisfied by the use of the Internet, as most nodes have World Wide Web sites, which offer, in the language of the user, information on multimedia related issues. I*M-Europe acts as the central enabler, linking to the sites, and offering umbrella support services. This network of homogeneous and multilingual World Wide Web servers offers a high degree of currency and interactivity.

After the kick-off meeting in January, Luxembourg, the second meeting took place at the start of June in Edinburgh, Scotland. Both meetings were characterised by creativity and interactivity. Ideas were broached, best practice emulated, information exchanged, and relationships cemented.

The MIDAS-NET nodes are ideally placed, with their knowledge of national circumstances, local and linguistic differences, to raise awareness and to stimulate demand for high quality European multimedia content.

Descriptions of the Coordinating MIDAS-NET nodes and their partners will be serialised in forthcoming issues of ECHO facts for users. This issue welcomes contributions from nodes based in Austria, France and Germany.

ÖSTERREICH

Das MIDAS-NET Österreich ist ein Konsortium von verschiedenen Partnern, die ihre Erfahrung in den Bereichen Multimedia und den neuen Kommunikationstechnologien austauschen. Dieses Konsortium setzt sich zusammen aus dem Koordinator Techno-Z FH F&E, sowie vier Partnern: Die Technologie Agentur, BIT, APTA, und TECHINFORM. Einige der Stärken dieses Teams ist die langjährige Beschäftigung mit den Themen Multimedia und den Informations- und Telekommunikationstechnologien (IKTs), das technische Know-how sowie praktische Erfahrung im Umgang mit verschiedenen technischen Plattformen. Weitere Informationen finden Sie unter folgender URL:

<http://www.dir.fh-sbg.ac.at/midas/home.html>

Co-ordinator

Techno-Z FH Forschung und Entwicklung
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Beschreibung: Eine Non-profit Forschungseinrichtung, die sich mit Medienökonomie, der Entwicklung der Informationsgesellschaft und den Neuen Medien beschäftigt.

Partners

APTA Austrian Platform on Telematic Applications
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Beschreibung: APTA ist eine Vereinigung von kommunikationstechnischen Initiativen der österreichischen Bundesländer. APTA ist eine virtuell organisierte Struktur, die telematische Anwendungen für Ihre eigene Arbeit verwendet.

BIT Bureau for International Research and Technology Cooperation
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Beschreibung: BIT ermöglicht die Teilnahme von Firmen, Universitäten und Forschungsinstituten am europäischen EUREKA Programm und anderen internationalen Forschungs- und Technologieprojekten.

TECHINFORM Wirtschaftskammer Österreich
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Beschreibung: Das Ziel von Techninform ist es, österreichische Firmen mit Informationen zu versorgen. Techninform's langjährige Erfahrung im Umgang mit Datenbanken ist eine weitere Stärke des österreichischen MIDAS-Konsortiums.

Technologie Agentur Techno-Z GmbH
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Beschreibung: Die Technologie Agentur Techno-Z GmbH beschäftigt sich vor allem mit Informations- und Telekommunikationstechniken und ist an mehreren nationalen und internationalen F&E Programmen beteiligt.

FRANCE

En France, deux noeuds MIDAS-NET partagent la mission de sensibilisation, d'information et de démonstration du contenu multimédia destinée à favoriser l'avènement de la Société de l'Information.

Le consortium consulaire, qui rassemble les 183 Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie, s'adresse aux entreprises, et en particulier aux PME, au niveau national.

Le URL de ce noeud est:
<http://www.ccip.fr/die/midas.htm>.

Le Centre Européen de la Communication (CEC) favorise le développement et l'usage des TIC (Technologies d'Information et de la Communication) à travers trois activités : l'Information, la Formation et l'Ingénierie, tant pour les collectivités, les entreprises, que pour les individus. En accompagnant la mise en place de la Société de l'Information, le CEC facilite les opportunités, la prise de décision, et constitue une plate-forme de développement de projets multimédia régionaux et transrégionaux.

Le URL de ce noeud est:
<http://www.cec.fr/MidasNet/Sommaire.htm>.

Co-ordinator

CEC Centre européen de la Communication
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Description: Le CEC facilite le développement des projets multimédia régionaux et transrégionaux et aide à l'implémentation de la Société de l'Information.

Partners

ADBS Association française des Professionnels de l'Information et de la Documentation
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Description: L'ADBS diffuse et développe l'information et la communication pour ses 5 500 membres qui regroupent des documentalistes et des organisations scientifiques.

Co-ordinator

CCIP Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Paris
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Description: Coordinateur du relais MIDAS-NET, la CCIP a quatre missions principales : la représentation des entreprises (275.000 entreprises des départements de Paris, Hauts-de-Seine, Seine-Saint-Denis et Val-de-Marne, soit le sixième de la population active de la France et le quart de son activité économique), l'accompagnement et l'information des entreprises de la création à la transmission, la formation (12.000 jeunes en formation initiale et 40.000 adultes en formation continue chaque année), l'équipement, l'aménagement et l'animation économique de sa circonscription.

Partners

Assemblée des Chambres françaises de Commerce et d'Industrie

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Description: L'ACFCI, au niveau national, représente l'ensemble des 183 CCI locales et régionales. Elle contribue, par les études et les propositions de ses Commissions nationales, à élaborer la synthèse des réflexions et des positions des Chambres à l'intention du gouvernement français et des administrations nationales et européennes.

Association française pour le Commerce et les Echanges électroniques
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Fax: 33 1 40 26 70 92
E-mail: afcee@utopia.eunet.fr

Description: L'AFCEE a pour objectif principal de favoriser, promouvoir et développer le commerce électronique ainsi que les nouvelles technologies de l'information en France, en Europe et dans le monde. Elle rassemble les utilisateurs et les fournisseurs du commerce électronique, ainsi que les organisations du secteur public susceptibles de contribuer à sa mission.

Association TELEFIRM
27, avenue de Friedland
F-75382 Paris Cedex 08
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Tel.: 33 1 42 89 72 51
Fax: 33 1 42 89 72 86
E-mail: fischerg@ccip.fr

Description: L'association TELEFIRM assure la gestion de la banque de données TELEFIRM (fichier exhaustif des 1.700.000 entreprises françaises ressortissant des CCI), veille à la cohérence technique de la production et définit la politique commerciale.

Association TELEXPORT
27, avenue de Friedland
F-75382 Paris Cedex 08
Contact: Mr. Gérard Falco
Tel.: 33 1 42 89 72 51

Fax: 33 1 42 89 72 86
E-mail: telexport@ccip.fr

Description: L'association TELEXPORT a pour but le développement, la promotion et la gestion de banques de données interconsulaires ou de tout autre moyen de diffusion électronique de l'information en matière de commerce international. Elle a passé des accords avec les partenaires français du commerce extérieur (CFCE, DREE, COFACE, ACTIM, Direction Générale des Douanes, ACFCI) et assure le secrétariat général de l'association AUDITE qui les regroupe.

DEUTSCHLAND

Die beiden deutschen Konsortien des MIDAS-NET leisten als Kompetenzverbund namhafter Beratungs- und Transfereinrichtungen in enger Zusammenarbeit Aufklärung, Beratung und Unterstützung zur Entwicklung der europäischen Multimedia-Industrie. Dazu sind vielfältige Veranstaltungen für Unternehmen und alle gesellschaftlichen Gruppen geplant, die den Einstieg in die neue multimediale Kommunikationswelt erleichtern sollen. Im Internet und in Druckmedien werden beispielhafte und erfolgreiche Anwendungsbeispiele zusammengestellt und kommentiert, Broschüren und Beiträge in den Medien bieten Übersicht und nennen Ansprechpartner, und als praktische Hilfestellung und für gemeinsame Projekte werden Seminare angeboten sowie Anwenderkreise eingerichtet. Die beiden deutschen Knoten des MIDAS-NET werden von der GMD - Forschungszentrum Informationstechnik GmbH und von der Technologie-Vermittlungs-Agentur Berlin koordiniert. Im World Wide Web sind Informationen des deutschen MIDAS-NET unter:
<http://midas-net.darmstadt.gmd.de/> zu finden. Aktuelle Themen werden in der Liste midasforum@gmd.de erörtert, und Informationen zu Veranstaltungen werden über die Liste midas-events@gmd.de verteilt.

Co-ordinator

GMD - Forschungszentrum
Informationstechnik GmbH
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Beschreibung: Die GMD betreibt als nationale Forschungseinrichtung angewandte Forschung in den Bereichen Informationssysteme, Kommunikationssysteme, Benutzer-Interfaces, Netzwerke und Multimedia. Ausserdem übernimmt sie satzungsgemäss Transferaufgaben für Industrie und Öffentlichkeit, berät die Politik und fördert Unternehmensgründungen. Für das deutsche MIDAS-NET betreibt sie den zentralen Internet Server.

Partners

DGD Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Dokumentation e.V.
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Beschreibung: Die DGD (gegr. 1948) fördert Informationswissenschaft und -praxis durch Tagungen, Aus- und Weiterbildung, Information über neue Techniken, Medien und Methoden der Informationsvermittlung, durch eine Fachzeitschrift, einen Newsletter, sowie Tagungsbände. Fachspezifische Themen behandeln über 30 Arbeitskreise und regionale Nutzergruppen.

Industrie- und Handelskammer zu
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E-mail: info@aachen.ihk.de

Beschreibung: Der IHK zu Aachen gehören rund 45.000 Mitgliedsfirmen an; 80% sind kleine und mittlere

Unternehmen. Sie ist eine Einrichtung der wirtschaftlichen Selbstverwaltung mit Hauptaufgaben im Bereich der Wirtschaftsförderung und der Wahrnehmung der Gesamtbelange aller Wirtschaftsbereiche.
InfonetzBayern e.V.
Sedanstrasse 3
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Beschreibung: InfonetzBayern e.V. ist ein vom Bayerischen Staatsministerium für Wirtschaft, Verkehr und Technologie initiiertes Netzwerk des Technologie-Transfers von über 80 Unternehmen und Institutionen, die Informationen für den Mittelstand aus weltweiten Quellen beschaffen. Die europäischen Multimedia-Aktivitäten sind bei den Mitgliedern EUROTEC CONSULT, INNOTECH GmbH, OUTLAW GmbH und PHYSIK+DATENTECHNIK GmbH gebündelt.

IW Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft
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Beschreibung: Das Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln ist eine gemeinsame Forschungseinrichtung von Wirtschafts- und Arbeitgeberverbänden sowie Unternehmen und forscht auf allen Gebieten der Bildungs-, Gesellschafts-, Wirtschafts-, Sozial- und Medienpolitik. Im Bereich Informationstechnologien, Innovation und Verbandsberatung werden nationale und internationale Forschungsprojekte zu neuen Technologien und Innovationsförderung insbesondere für KMU bearbeitet.

Medien- und Filmgesellschaft Baden-
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Beschreibung: Die Medien- und Filmgesellschaft Baden-Württemberg, kurz MFG, wurde 1995 vom Land Baden-Württemberg als Service- und Kompetenzzentrum für die Medien- und Kommunikationswirtschaft gegründet. Als Transfer- und Beratungsstelle koordiniert die MFG innovative Medienprojekte. Eine zentrale Aufgabe der MFG ist die Unterstützung der Multimedia-Industrie und der Multimedia-Anwendungen in Baden-Württemberg.

Co-ordinator

TVA Technologie-Vermittlungs-Agentur Berlin e.V.

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Beschreibung: Die TVA ist als wirtschaftsgetragene Einrichtung seit fast 20 Jahren Anlaufstelle für die Innovationsförderung in Berlin und Brandenburg. Für die Kerngruppe kleine und mittlere Unternehmen berät die TVA zu allen Fragen in Zusammenhang mit Produkt- und Verfahrensinnovation. Der Bereich Multimedia zählt dabei zum Kerngeschäftsfeld.

Partners

BTI Beratungsgesellschaft für

Technologietransfer und

Innovationsförderung mbH

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Beschreibung: Die BTI wurde 1992 als Tochterunternehmen der Landeshauptstadt Dresden, der Industrie- und Handelskammer Dresden und der Handwerkskammer Dresden gegründet. Ihre Aufgabe ist die ganzheitliche Beratung und Unterstützung von kleinen und mittleren Unternehmen in allen Fragen der

Produkt- und Verfahrensinnovation einschliesslich der EU-Förderprogramme für Forschung und Entwicklung in den Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien.

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Beschreibung: Die GMD führt als nationale Grossforschungseinrichtung angewandte Forschung in den Bereichen Informationssysteme, Kommunikationssysteme, Benutzer-Interfaces, Netzwerke und Multimedia durch. Ausserdem übernimmt sie satzungsgemäss Transferaufgaben für Industrie und Öffentlichkeit, berät die Politik und fördert Unternehmensgründungen. Für das deutsche MIDAS-NET betreibt sie den zentralen Internet Server.

LITZ Leipziger Innovations- und

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Beschreibung: LITZ ist in einem Wissenschaftszentrum (Science Park) untergebracht. Seine Aufgaben sind der Transfer von Forschungs- und Entwicklungsergebnissen und die Einführung neuer Technologien in kleinen und mittelständischen Unternehmen.

SET Sächsische Entwicklungsgesellschaft

für Telematik

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Beschreibung: SET wurde im Herbst 1996 als eine Tochter der Wirtschaftsförderung Sachsen GmbH mit dem Ziel

gegründet, Pilotprojekte für Telematik-anwendungen im Freistaat Sachsen zu befördern. Aufgabe der SET, die eng mit der Sächsischen Staatsregierung verbunden ist, ist u.a. auch die Schaffung von öffentlichem Bewusstsein für die Chancen und Möglichkeiten der Informationsgesellschaft. Die SET koordiniert die landesweite "Sächsische Informationsinitiative" (SII) und vertritt Sachsen in der "Inter-Regional Information Society Initiative" (IRISI) der Europäischen Union.

THATI Thüringer Agentur für

Technologietransfer und

Innovationsförderung GmbH

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Beschreibung: THATI wurde im Jahr 1992 als Tochterunternehmen der drei Thüringer Industrie- und Handelskammern gegründet. Ihr Aufgabengebiet umfasst die Information, Beratung und Begleitung von KMUs der gewerblichen Wirtschaft in den Bereichen Produkt- und Verfahrensentwicklung, Unternehmensmanagement und speziell zum Einsatz von Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien.

Further information on the MIDAS-NET nodes can be obtained from:

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<http://www.echo.lu/info2000/midas/home.html>

The next issue of ECHO facts for users will contain further descriptions of the MIDAS-NET nodes.

Geographical search enhancement for TED

Searching for Regions

TED is currently searchable by country (using the CY field) and city (using the TI field). TED users are now able to search for documents issued from their region. This not only heightens the search possibilities within the database but also complements the geographical areas available for data extraction.

The NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) classification codes have been chosen as the most appropriate coding system for this type of search. These codes were established originally by EUROSTAT to provide a single uniform breakdown of territorial units for the production of regional statistics for the European Union. The new regional coding will include the region where the contract has to be established, delivered or executed.

TED users may have already noticed the appearance of the two new fields in the database:

- the RC field, relating to the Region code;
- the RG field, relating to the Region name.

The Office for Official Publications of the European Communities began implementing the new fields from the beginning of April 1997.

Using the fields

The NUTS coding system is a five-level hierarchical classification. However, EUR-OP's codification refers only to the third level. It subdivides each Member State into a number of NUTS1 regions, each of which is, in turn, subdivided into a number of NUTS2 codes which are then divided into NUTS3 regions.

A database entry, including the RC and RG fields, will appear as follows. Please note that latin-rich characters are not displayed.

Document Example

TI: B-Charleroi: computers and other information processing equipment
PD: 19970402
ND: 39750-97 BASE: TEDA

OJ: JO S 064
DR: 19970327
DS: 19970326
DT: 19970410
TD: 3 - Invitation to tender
NC: 2 - Supply contract
PR: 3 - Accelerated restricted procedure
RP: 4 - EEC
AA: 3 - Local authorities
TY: 3 - Mixed 1 and 2 bid
AC: 8 - Not specified
CC: 3305 - EDP MATERIAL AND SER
VICE
PC: 30021233 - Workstations
30021310 - Servers
72201010 - Systems and utility
software
CY: BE
RC: BE322 - BE-CHARLEROI
OL: FR
AB: Goods, CPA reference number:
CPV: 30021233, 30021310, 72201010.
Computers and other information pro-
cessing equipment. Servers. Systems and
utility software. 3 lots. Ref.: 223 V.

OA: Objet du marche, numero
CPA: CPV: 30021233, 30021310,
72201010. Appel d'offres no 223 V.
800 a 1 000 postes de travail (PC ou
NC) connectables sur reseau NT ainsi
que serveurs NT pour ces postes. Les
postes de travail et les serveurs
comprendront le boitier avec alimenta-
tion, la carte mere, les peripheriques
internes (disques, disquettes, cartes
reseau, carte graphique) eventuels, le
clavier, la souris et l'ecran. Les postes de
travail permettront a leurs utilisateurs
d'executer n'importe quelle application
tournant en Windows

NT. Le marche contiendra la fourni-
ture et l'installation de l'OS et des
gestionnaires des peripheriques installes.
Lot 1) fourniture des ecrans,
lot 2) fourniture et installation des
PC ou NC ainsi que leur logiciel,
lot 3) fourniture et installation des
serveurs ainsi que leur logiciel

For further information, please contact
the TED help desk:

ted@echo.lu

The region correspondence table:

| Country | NUT1 | NUT2 | NUT3 |
|-------------|--|---|---|
| BE | Régions | Provinces | Arrondissements |
| DK | - | - | Amter |
| DE | Länder | Regierungsbezirke | Kreise |
| GR | Groups of development regions | Development regions | Nomoi |
| ES | Agrupación de comunidades autónomas- | Comunidades autónomas | Provincias |
| FR | Zone d'Etude et d'Aména- gement du Territoire + DOM | + Ceuta y Mellila Régions + DOM | + Ceuta y Mellila Départements + DOM |
| IE | - | - | - |
| IT | Gruppi di regioni | Regioni | Provinciae |
| LU | - | - | - |
| NL | Landsdelen | Provincies | COROP regio's |
| AT | Gruppen von Bundesländern | Bundesländer | Gruppen von |
| Politischen | | | Bezirken |
| PT | Continente + Regiões autónomas | Comissões de coordenação regional + Regiões autónomas | Grupos de Concelhos |
| FI | Manner-Suomi/Ahvenanmaa | Suuraluett | Maakunnat |
| SE | - | Riksomraden | Län |
| UK | Standard regions | Groups of counties | Counties/Local authority regions |

All tenders will be encoded using the NUTS classification codes as explained above except for:
tenders outside the European Union (e.g. EEA, CCEE, Japan, USA); European economic interest groupings (EEIG); contracts originating from the PHARE and TACIS programmes; contracts issued from the European Development Fund; pre-information (supplies and services); periodic indicative notices (supplies and services); tenders where localisation is difficult to define, e.g. localisation indicated in the database which reads "To be defined".

England and Wales:

various premises occupied by the awarding authority; various premises throughout England and Wales; one or more generating units within Scottish Power's generation stations. In total 32 community units, five of which receive full catering services. A comprehensive list will be issued to candidates expressing an interest in providing services. See contract documents, etc.
(In this case the region field will not appear).



Preparing Europe for the Information Society

<http://www.echo.lu/>

A new look for I*M-Europe

I*M-Europe now has a new home page and structure designed to optimise information access on the server which has maintained its popularity in recent months. The redesign is user driven, being based on the results of the user survey and on the daily feedback from site visitors and content suppliers. The server has also been enriched with the addition of:

- a site map
<http://www.echo.lu/sitemap.html>
- a document informing users on how to take part in DG XIII's activities
<http://www.echo.lu/howtop.html>
- an ABC of the site
<http://www.echo.lu/abc.html>
- an events section listing all the major happenings in the European IT scene
<http://www.echo.lu/events.html>
- a document on the multilingual contents of the site
<http://www.echo.lu/multiling.html>

The WWW search tool "TOPIC" from "Verity" will be implemented shortly to provide full text searches. It is hoped that the new look and structure will attract even more users and will encourage new document suppliers to use I*M-Europe as the main outlet for their activities.

The I*M-Europe User survey

Background

A series of ten questions in the form of a brief on-line questionnaire aimed at gathering basic information on the user population of I*M-Europe, has enabled us to gain an insight into users' area of work, the type of Internet connections they have, the frequency of their Internet use, their reasons for using I*M-Europe and their opinions of key aspects of the server. The questionnaire

was available on-line for 20 days and 491 users responded. The following questions were asked:

What kind of business do you work in?

The largest user group responding to the questionnaire was in education/research (40%) followed by business/industry (38%). Government and civil service accounted for 13% of the total responses.

The largest sector in business and industry is IT and computing, accounting for 11% of the total user responses.

The Internet is traditionally dominated by universities and research-oriented institutions so it is no surprise to find that the largest user group is from this sector. However, it is interesting to see that the proportion of business/industrial users is almost as great, indicating that I*M-Europe has the potential to become an important business resource.

Type of Internet Connection

The responses show that it is still vital for I*M-Europe site developers to cater for users with slow modem connections. A high proportion (23%) of respondents failed to answer this question, a further 6% said that they were unsure of the speed of connection.

*Frequency of using I*M-Europe*

I*M-Europe has a following of regular users who check the service at intervals for updates and recent publications. However, the fact that 38% of the respondents were using the server for the first time shows that I*M-Europe has not yet reached its maximum audience.

*How did you hear about I*M Europe?*

- 22% found the server via hyperlinks from other sites

- 19% via Internet search services
- 19% via printed promotional material from the EC.

The above statistics show that a large group of users found the site either because they were looking for specific subject material via a search engine or because they had already obtained related printed material from the EC. In other words, they had invested a certain amount of effort in obtaining information relevant to their needs.

*For which purpose do you use I*M-Europe?*

Work and education account for 54% and 46% of users respectively.

Users were asked to judge various aspects of the server's quality, indicating whether they were good, satisfactory or poor. A pleasing 95% of those responding confirmed that the quality was good or satisfactory.

Questions relating to:

- accessibility of information held on the server;
- navigation and browsing facilities of the server;
- layout;
- interactivity and
- access speed.

resulted in each separate case with over 80% of the users claiming that the server is good or satisfactory.

Conclusions of the survey

The responses indicate that the server is already meeting the needs and expectations of the majority of users in the critical content and interaction-related areas which determine the success of an Internet-based information resource. The survey has proved that the server is developing along the right lines and can only continue to improve!

Total hits continue to exceed one million

I*M-Europe registered 1 100 640 hits in April 1997, an increase of 55 000 from

the previous month. Total page accesses increased slightly from 425 960 to 464 536. Accesses to the server's home page rose from 39 592 to 43 678.

The trend for the distribution of accesses per section remains largely unchanged. The most popular section was the Legal Advisory Board, with 30 672 accesses, followed by ECHO (29 017) the Telematics Applications Programme pages (24 204) and the Telematics for Libraries (20 234).

What's new on I*M-Europe

- Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the First cohesion report (Brussels 23 April 1997). The document is available in:

English

<http://www.echo.lu/ces/ces469e.html>

French

<http://www.echo.lu/ces/ces469f.html>

- New items have been added to the OII (Open Information Interchange) file set:

Digital Television Standards

<http://www.echo.lu/oii/en/tv.html>

G7 Pilot project on a Global Marketplace for SMEs, First Annual Conference (7-9 April 1997)

<http://www.echo.lu/en/G7-conf.html>

MPEG-7 Seminar - Multimedia Content Description Interface (9 April 1997)

<http://www.echo.lu/mpeg-7.html>

XML Ready for Prime Time?

<http://www.echo.lu/oii/en/xml.html>

Multimedia and Hypermedia Standards Activity, April 1997

<http://www.echo.lu/oii/en/oiiapr97.htm>

Any comments on I*M-Europe are welcome and can be addressed to:

webmaster@echo.lu

The Fifth Framework Programme

Fifth Framework Programme proposal adopted

The Fifth Framework Programme of the European Community for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration activities was adopted on 9 April 1997 by the Commission. The programme is also known as "FP5" and covers all EU-funded R&D activities.

The Focus

The FP5 will focus on EU priorities, chosen for their social and economic relevance and European added value, thus ensuring effective use of limited resources. Efforts will concentrate on objectives which have impact on jobs, quality of life and competitiveness of the European Union. The Fifth Framework Programme will remain pre-competitive. Its key terms are programme concentration, increased coordination between activities and greater flexibility in management.

Concentration is reflected in the reduced number of programmes. The Commission is proposing to structure FP5 on six major programmes; three thematic RTD programmes and three horizontal programmes.

The three Thematic Programmes are:

- the resources of the living world and ecosystem;
- the development of a user-friendly information society;
- the promotion of competitive and sustainable growth.

Each of these three programmes will consist of a series of key actions (16 in total). In addition, each Thematic Programme will involve R&D activities in generic technologies and support for the research infrastructure.

The three Horizontal Programmes are:

- the international role of European Research;
- innovating and involving SMEs;
- increasing human potential.

These horizontal programmes will coordinate, within the Framework Programme, the implementation of all activities connected with their objectives. They will also help to implement the thematic programmes.

The Information Society

The four key actions identified under the Information Society component of the FP5 are:

- systems and services for citizens of the European Union;
- new methods of working and electronic commerce;
- multimedia content;
- essential Infrastructure and technology.

In addition, actions to be undertaken include:

- research activities and development of technology in general, and
- support for Research Infrastructure.

Multimedia Content RTD

This will be one focused key action under the Fifth Framework Programme and will involve adding value to content through technology. Particular areas for focus include:

- interactive electronic publishing;
- education and training and cultural content (libraries, museums, etc.);
- language technologies;
- advanced information access technologies.

Information Society: multimedia content

The aim of this key action is to facilitate education and life-long training, to stimulate creativity, promote linguistic and cultural diversity and improve the functionality and user-friendliness of future information products and services. It puts emphasis on the development of intelligent systems for education and training and of innovative forms of multimedia content, including audiovisual content, and tools for structuring and processing them. It will focus on four main lines:

- interactive electronic publishing with new methods for creating and structuring publications and for the personalised dissemination of information and accessing of cultural items through virtual libraries and museums;
- education and training: systems, services and software enabling the development and demonstration of new methods using multimedia, broad-band communications, simulation and virtual reality;
- new language technologies which help to make information and communications systems more user-friendly;
- advanced technologies for accessing, filtering and analysing information to help manage the information explosion and facilitate the use of multimedia contents, notably as regards geographical information systems.

Calendar

The Council and the European Parliament should approve the Fifth Framework Programme during 1998, with approval for the specific programmes following during the same year.

Access the Fifth Framework Focus Home page at the following URL:

<http://www.cordis.lu/fifth/home.html>

MENU USERS: opting for Watch-CORDIS

The CORDIS Customer Service would like to thank all of its users for greatly assisting in the smooth transition of the databases from ECHO to the CORDIS host.

Furthermore, the withdrawal of the Menu system (superseded by Watch-CORDIS and the CORDIS WEB), has been well received by the former Menu system users who have now opted for either (or both) alternatives.

Access to the CORDIS WEB is fairly straight forward; users only need to enter the URL <http://www.cordis.lu/> and then use their intuition to search the CORDIS databases with the aid of "point and click" menus. Watch-CORDIS is also easy to use but needs to be installed on a PC. Watch-CORDIS is packed with many features which allow users to manage their information in many ways.

The CORDIS Help Desk would like to take this opportunity to delineate the installation procedure for Watch-CORDIS, especially to support the former Menu system users of the CORDIS databases. If you have any questions or would like further information, please feel free to contact the multilingual CORDIS Help Desk (see contact details at the end of article).

Obtaining a copy of Watch-CORDIS

The quickest way to obtain Watch-CORDIS is to download it from the CORDIS WEB at <http://www.cordis.lu/> and then to click on *Products and Publications* on the navigation bar. Users who do not have access to the CORDIS WEB may contact the CORDIS Help Desk for a diskette version.

Requirements

To work with Watch-CORDIS, you need the following:

- an IBM AT or 100% compatible with a 80386 based processor (or higher);
- at least 4 Mb of RAM (8 recommended);
- at least 4 Mb of hard disk space is required for the application;
- one 3.5 inch disk drive;
- Microsoft Windows (version 3.1 or higher) and a mouse.

For on-line access you need to have one of the following:

- telephone and modem;
- X.25 or X.28 connection;
- Internet (telnet) connection (In technical terms: a modem or X.28 connection or a PC-NFS (version 4.0 or higher), Windows Socket or Interrupt 14h compatible LAN).

Downloading Watch-CORDIS from the CORDIS WEB

First download the self-extracting compressed file watch202.exe (1.7 Mbytes). This file should be downloaded to a suitable temporary directory. To extract the file go to the DOS Prompt and select the directory to which watch202.exe has been downloaded. Type `watch202 -d`

Note: This file is a PKZIP Self Extracting file and the option [-d] should be placed after the self-extracting file name to re-create the original directory structure within the temporary directory.

Installing Watch-CORDIS on your PC

Installing Watch-CORDIS is simple: the only decision you have to make is where on your hard disk you would like Watch-CORDIS installed. Just follow the steps explained below and the on-screen instructions.

Conclusion

As mentioned earlier, the above settings can be re-edited at any time, should you change your system or the way you connect. Within the Watch-CORDIS User Manual you will find a more comprehensive description of the above as well as a tutorial describing all of the features of Watch-CORDIS. The User Manual may be downloaded from the CORDIS WEB at <http://www.cordis.lu/> and then clicking on Products and Publications on the navigation bar. It is available in English, French, German and Italian. If you would like further information please contact the CORDIS Help Desk at the address given below.

CORDIS Customer Service
B.P. 2373
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Tel.: (+352) 40116-2240
Fax: (+352) 40116-2248
E-mail: helpdesk@cordis.lu
<http://www.cordis.lu/>



I am interested in receiving
information on CORDIS

Name

Organisation/Company

Address

City

Country

Are you an ECHO user? If so, please
provide your User Reg.

No. 00

CORDIS Customer Service, B.P.
2373, L-1023 Luxembourg.
CORDIS fax (+352) 401162-248

Database movement

The EMIRE (European employment and industrial relations glossaries) and the ELCID (Information Source on living conditions in Europe) databases will be withdrawn from ECHO. After successfully lodging on the host, the producer has decided to provide access to the databases via the Internet.

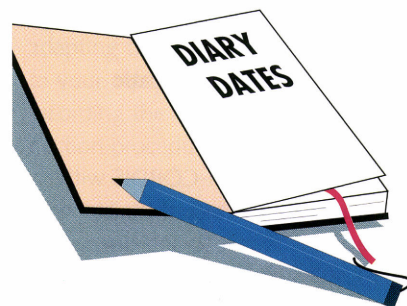
Similarly, the BC-NET (Innovation and Technology) database will be withdrawn at the end of July 1997.

The new WATCH interface, due to be released in summer of this year, will accommodate these database changes.

Please note that both databases are produced by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Dublin, Ireland.

ECOSOC on ECHO

Within the European institutions, ECOSOC (ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE) produces opinions on draft Community legislation. The Committee has 222 members, representing employers, workers and other interest groups such as farmers and consumers. Committee opinions are prepared after referral by the Council or on "own initiative". In some specific areas, ECOSOC performs a monitoring role. The database contains full-text opinions and bulletins from January 1995 onwards and is now available in Danish and Greek.



ECHO will be represented at the following events:

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| Milan | SMAU 02-06/10/97 |
| Frankfurt | Bookfair 15-20/10/97 |
| London | On-line 97 09-11/12/97 |



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